

## Message Text

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72

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6803

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO US

REF: CAIRO 3098; STATE 102282

1. OTAIFI CONCURS THAT, CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS, EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARY VISIT MIGHT MOST USEFULLY TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER. FROM EGYPTIAN SIDE, VISIT WOULD BEST OCCUR DURING FIRST PART OF MONTH, AND OTAIFI HOPES THAT THIS WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO US CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HE MENTIONED THAT ONE PROBLEM IN TIMING FROM ASSEMBLY'S VIEWPOINT IS SCHEDULED PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO JAPAN IN OCTOBER; HE WOULD PREFER THAT THERE NOT BE TWO MAJOR EGYPTIAN GROUPS ABSENT FROM EGYPT AT SAME TIME.

2. WHEN INFORMED THAT GROUP OF BETWEEN TEN AND TWELVE PERSONS COULD BE PROGRAMMED AND FUNDED FOR SEPTEMBER VISIT, OTAIFI ASKED IF THIS NUMBER MIGHT INCLUDE WIVES. HE SAID THAT SEVERAL OF THOSE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHOM HE WOULD WISH TO SEE ON THE TRIP WOULD WANT TO TAKE THEIR WIVES WITH THEM, BUT HE LATER ADDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DETERMINING FACTOR. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT TRAVEL OF WIVES COULD NOT BE FUNDED BY USG.

3. OTAIFI ALSO ASKED IF EGYPTIAN ASSEMBLY GROUP MIGHT INCLUDE ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WHOSE FLUENCY IN ENGLISH WOULD, HE BELIEVED, BE NECESSARY FOR GROUP ARRANGEMENTS, TRAVEL, AND INTERPRETATION NEEDS IF SUCH WERE REQUIRED.

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4.FINALLY, OTAIFI SUGGESTED THAT WHILE HE WOULD WISH TO LEAD

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM AND ONE OTHER MEMBER (LAILA TAKLA) TO HAVE SCHEDULE SLIGHTLY VARIED FROM THAT OF THE REST OF GROUP, PERMITTING SEPARATE AND ESSENTIAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF NEW YORK BANKING/BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

5. DURING CONVERSATION WITH OTAIFI, EMBOFF NOTED THAT EGYPTIAN DELEGATION COULD MOST USEFULLY BE COMPOSED OF PERSONS DRAWN FROM RANGE OF EGYPTIAN PROFESSIONS WHO COULD COMMUNICATE WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WHOSE OWN RESPONSIBILITIES COVERED THE RANGE OF US COMESTIC AND ECONOMIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS. OTAIFI SAID THAT HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO ENSURE THAT GROUP WAS COMPOSED OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH SPECIALTIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

6. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT ON OTAIFI'S REQUEST OF PARA 3-4 ABOVE. TWO OF THESE MERIT SOME COMMENT: A) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WHOM OTAIFI WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPANY GROUP IS MAGDA HUSSEIN, HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT, WHO IS IN HER LATE 20'S AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES SHE COULD QUALIFY FOR NOMINATION AS VISITOR TO US ON BASIS OF POSITION WITHIN ASSEMBLY STAFF AND POTENTIAL USEFULNESS TO US. B) OTAIFI'S REQUEST FOR A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM SUBSTANTIVE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH US CONGRESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL FIGURES COULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL. OTAIFI WOULD BE LESS INTENT ON HOW THE US IMPRESSED ITSELF ON HIM (HE HAS BEEN THERE BEFORE) THAN ON EXPLAINING FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WHAT EGYPT IS TODAY. HE IS EFFECTIVE AT THIS. HIS ENGLISH IS COMPETENT, AND HE HAS SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE IN AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE US: HE IS, FOR ONE MATTER, HEAD OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE WHICH YESTERDAY FAVORABLY PASSED THE GOE'S NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT LAW. HE HAS SUGGESTED THAT DR. LAYLA TAKLA BE OTHER MEMBER OF GROUP WHO MIGHT ACCOMPANY HIM DURING VISITS. IN OUR EXPERIENCE TAKLA, WHO IS US-EDUCATED, IS ONE OF EGYPT'S MOST IMPRESSIVE PUBLIC FIGURES. SHE HAS SPECIAL EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS WITH MRS. SADAT.

7. IN VIEW OF OTAIFI'S AND TAKLA'S IMPORTANCE REQUEST THAT  
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AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN US, COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR NEA/EGY, IN COORDINATION WITH H, BE PREPARED TO SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENTARY APPOINTMENTS FOR THEM TO MEET WITH CONGRESSIONAL AND US FINANCIAL LEADERS, AS DESIRED.  
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